

Legislative Issue Brief – Funding for Older Americans Act



Catawba County Board of Commissioner's Legislative Goal

Support increases to funding for Older Americans Act services to help older Americans remain independent in their homes and communities

Background

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), roughly 26 million older adults over the age of 65 have physical limitations or need assistance with activities of daily life, such as eating, bathing or dressing. Older Americans Act (OAA) services enable many individuals to remain at home with the provision of supportive services including home delivered meals, in-home aide, adult day care/day health and transportation. Increasing total funding for these programs will allow them to keep pace with projected population growth and service rate increases. The Older Americans Act programs are impacted by the changing demographics and continued growth in the older adult population. The demographics coupled with rising costs for the provision of services severely impact the provision and availability of OAA services. To keep pace with both the demographics and cost increases, an increase in funding is needed. It is recommended that OAA funding be increased by at least 5.17 percent, or approximately \$100 million, to keep pace with projected population growth and increased cost of service provision.

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